

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02259 091108Z

43

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 NEA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02 SS-14

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-04

PRS-01 DRC-01 /068 W

----- 053682

R 090730Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1669

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2259

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJ: NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SYRIA

1. NGUYEN HOTHU (PHONETIC SPELLING), IDENTIFIED AS CHAIRMAN OF PRESIDENCY OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF VIETNAM AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF SAGES (SIC) OF PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM, ARRIVED OCTOBER 7 ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIAL DELEGATION ON FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SYRIA. VISIT BEGAN WITH TRADITIONAL WELCOMING CEREMONY AND REMARKS AT AIRPORT BY SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD AND HOTHU. BILATERAL TALKS BEGAN DURING FIRST DAY; THERE WAS STATE DINNER IN EVENING.

2. DURING REMARKS DELIVERED AT STATE DINNER PRESIDENT ASAD STRESSED SIMILARITY OF SITUATIONS OF VIETNAM AND MIDDLE EAST WHERE BOTH COUNTRIES FORCED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST AGGRESSORS. HE UNDERScoreD ALSO DETERMINATION OF BOTH PEOPLES TO "PERSIST IN STRUGGLE UNTIL VICTORY." ASAD WARNED THAT AGGRESSORS WERE NOW TRYING WITH POLITICAL MANEUVERS TO STEAL FROM PEOPLE OF TWO AREAS THE VICTORIES THEY ACHIEVED THROUGH BLOOD. ASAD SAID THAT BY ISRAEL'S MANEUVERS TO EVADE WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB LAND, BY ITS REFUSAL TO IMPLEMENT UN  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02259 091108Z

RESOLUTIONS, BY ITS POLICY OF REARMAMENT AND THREATS OF

AGGRESSION, AND BY ITS CONTINUAL REFUSAL TO RESPECT RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, ISRAEL IS CLOSING DOORS IN FACE OF PEACE ENDEAVORS AND CREATING IN THIS AREA GRAVE AND EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS. ON VIETNAM SYRIAN PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED SYRIA'S SUPPORT FOR PARIS AGREEMENT AND FOR RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. HE CONDEMNED CONTINUAL "FLAGRANT" VIOLATIONS OF PARIS ACCORDS.

3. IN HIS REPLY VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT SPOKE FIRST ABOUT SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. HE NOTED PRESENT SITUATION CAUSED ANXIETY OF ALL PEACE LOVING PEOPLE AND BLAMED PRESENT TENSION "ON AGGRESSIVE POLICY FOLLOWED BY ISRAEL WITH SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM." HE REAFFIRMED TOTAL SUPPORT TO ARAB POSITION AND TO PLO AS SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ON VIETNAM HOTHU SAID 20 MONTHS AFTER SIGNING OF PARIS AGREEMENT, WAR CONTINUES THERE EXACTLY AS IN MIDDLE EAST AND "WHOLE RESPONSIBILITY FALLS ON POLICY OF AGGRESSIVE AND DIRECT INTERVENTION OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM." HE MADE FURTHER ASSERTIONS AGAINST U.S. U.S. CONTINUES ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO SOUTH VIETNAM. WAR REMAINS 100 PER CENT AMERICAN OPERATION AND IS NOT CIVIL WAR AS AMERICANS TRY TO SAY. THIEU GOVERNMENT IS STOOGES OF AMERICANS. IN SUMMARY HOTHU BLAMES U.S. FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT PARIS AGREEMENT AND THUS FOR CONTINUED WARFARE IN VIETNAM.

4. COMMENT: VISIT BY PRG REPRESENTATIVE IS ONE MORE IN CONTINUING LINE OF CONTACTS ASAD HAS HAD RECENTLY WITH COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS. WE VIEW THIS AS EFFORT TO MAINTAIN SYRIAN CREDENTIALS AS MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED PROGRESSIVE GROUP OF COUNTRIES. THERE LITTLE OF SIGNIFICANCE THUS FAR TO REPORT AND, IN FACT, WE EXPECT VISIT TO BE QUITE ROUTINE WITH ADDITIONAL BILATERAL TALKS, FINAL COMMUNIQUE, AND VISITS TO ECONOMIC SITES IN NORTH AND KUWAIT IN SOUTH.

MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHIEF OF STATE VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974DAMASC02259  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740286-0970  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741061/aaaabzsk.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SYRIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, US, (NGUYEN HOTHU)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005